

XII.—*On a Species of Trochalopteron from Travancore.*

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A very interesting series of bird-skins obtained in Southern Travancore has recently been brought to England by Mr. F. W. Bourdillon. Collections previously made by the same gentleman in the locality named have been described by Mr. Hume in *Stray Feathers*, Vol. IV, p. 351, and Vol. VII, p. 33. One of the species noticed in the second paper is *Trochalopteron fairbanki*, a bird originally obtained by Mr. S. Fairbank on the Palni hills, about 100 miles north of the range, east of Trevandrum, on which Mr. Bourdillon's skins were collected. Mr. Hume, l. c. p. 37, points out some differences between the Travancore and Palni forms, but remarks that he has not a sufficient series to determine whether these differences are constant.

In the collection now brought are three skins of the Travancore *Trochalopteron*, and on comparing them with the original type of *T. fairbanki* in the British Museum, I find, besides the differences noticed by Mr. Hume, a few other distinctions, sufficient, I think, to justify a separate title being bestowed on the Travancore bird. The following is a full description of the latter.

## TROCHALOPTERUM MERIDIONALE, sp. nov.

*T. Trochaloptero fairbanki peraffine, sed dorso grisescente, abdomine medio albo, supercilio albo haud post oculum producto, regione postoculari grisea nec fusca, rostroque robustiore distinguendum: pileo brunneo, dorso griseo-olivacco, postice olivaceo, coloribus transeuntibus; supercilio brevi albo, loris brunneis, cum pileo concoloribus; capitis lateribus cum regione parotica pallide rufescenti-griseis, colli lateribus cinereis; reetricibus remigibusque brunneis, illis remigibusque secundariis ultimis subobsolete transfasciatis; mento, gula, atque pectore albescenti-griseis, conspicue fusco-striatis, media gula fere alba; abdomine medio albido, lateribus cum pennis subcaudalibus tectricibusque inferioribus alarum ferrugineis, tibiis olivaceis; rostro nigro, pedibus fuscis, iridibus saturate rufis.*

Long. tota exempli masculini 9, alæ 3·5, caudæ 3·6, tarsi 1·45, rostri a fronte 0·8, ejusdem a rictu 1, culminis 0·9 poll. Angl.

HAB. In summis montibus provinciæ Travancore, ad extremitatem meridionalem peninsulæ Indicæ.

Head above hair-brown, the feathers rather pale-shafted, the colour passing gradually into that of the back, which is greyish olive, becoming greener on the rump; a very short white supercilium, only extending from

the base of the bill to above the middle of the eye; lores the same colour as the crown; sides of head, including the ear-coverts, grey, with a slight rufescent tinge; sides of neck purer grey; wing and tail-feathers brown with olivaceous margins, all the tail-feathers and the last (proximal) secondary quill-feathers with faintly marked narrow transverse bars on the upper surface; chin, throat, and breast pale grey, with conspicuous dusky striæ, the central portion of each feather being much darker than the edges; the middle of the throat is very pale, almost white, middle of abdomen white, lateral portions and flanks with the under tail-coverts and under wing-coverts ferruginous; thigh-coverts olivaceous. Irides dark red,\* bill black, legs dusky.

The three specimens were all shot at an elevation of 4000 feet. Two are from Mynall, one from the Travancore and Tinnevely boundary. Two are males; of the third, the sex has not been ascertained. The differences in measurement are trifling: the wing is 3·4 to 3·55 inches; tail, 3·4 to 3·65; tarsus, 1·4 to 1·45; culmen, 0·9 to 0·95. The length is given by Mr. Bourdillon from  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches in different specimens.

*T. meridionale* is distinguished from *T. fairbanki* by (1) the much shorter white superciliary stripe terminating above the eye, whereas, in *T. fairbanki*, it extends back above the ear-coverts; (2) by there being no brown band behind the eye, the feathers immediately behind the eye being rufescent grey like the cheeks in *T. meridionale*, whilst they are brown like the lores and the crown in *T. fairbanki*; (3) by the back and upper parts generally being much greyer and by the brown colour of the crown passing gradually into the olivaceous tinge of the back and not being separated by a distinct margin; (4) by the tail-feathers being browner and more distinctly transversely barred above; (5) by the striation on the throat and breast being more strongly marked; (6) by the middle of the abdomen being white instead of ferruginous†; and (7) by the rather stouter bill. I consider the differences marked 1, 2, and 3 characteristic; the others taken alone would scarcely justify the separation of the two forms.

From *T. jerdoni* the present species may be known by the absence of a black chin‡, by the flanks and under tail-coverts being rufous instead of

\* Noted by Mr. Bourdillon, as also are the dimensions taken in the flesh. The length above quoted is from these measurements.

† This may not be constant; I have an indistinct recollection of having seen a specimen of *T. fairbanki* with the middle of the abdomen whitish, but I am not sure.

‡ With reference to this distinction between *T. jerdoni* and the two Southern forms *T. fairbanki* and *T. meridionale*, it is as well to note that the presence of a black chin in the former is mentioned by Blyth in his original description J. A. S. B., 1851, xx, p. 522. I call attention to this distinction, as Mr. Hume has overlooked it in his note on the species (Stray Feathers, vii, p. 36).

olivaceous, and the middle of the abdomen white instead of rufous. It is greatly to be regretted that *T. jerdoni* has never been collected again, so far as can be judged by published accounts, since Jerdon first procured it.

XIII.—*On a new Species of Papilio from South India, with Remarks on the Species allied thereto.*—By J. WOOD-MASON, *Officiating Superintendent, Indian Museum, and Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Zoology, Medical College, Calcutta.*

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(With Plates VIII and IX.)

In December last, the Indian Museum received from Mr. F. W. Bourdillon of Trevandrum, a small collection of diurnal Lepidoptera, amongst which was a much worn and tattered example of a female insect evidently closely allied to the North Indian *P. Castor* and to the Burmese *P. Mahadeva*, with the same sex of the latter of which it turned out on examination to agree in having the discal markings of the hind-wing confined to the median region of the organ, where they form a transverse band of lanceolate spots, instead of being diffused over the whole disk and extending into the cell, as in the former.

About a month ago, a few species of butterflies were received from Mr. G. H. Kearney of the Berkodee Coffee Estate, Koppa Anche, Mysore, and amongst them is a fine specimen of the male, which proves that the species is, as the above-mentioned female specimen had already indicated, more nearly related to *P. Mahadeva* than to *P. Castor*, and enables me to describe it.

PAPILIO DRAVIDARUM, n. sp., Pl. VIII, Fig. 1, ♂.

Allied to *P. Castor* and to *P. Mahadeva*,† but more closely so to the latter, with which it agrees in the form of the wings in both sexes.

Sexes alike, having not only the same form of wings but also the same general type of coloration as the females of the two described species; the male differing from the female only in the darker and richer tints of its upper surface.

♂. UPPERSIDE rich fuscous of a much lighter shade than in *P. Castor*, or even than in *P. Mahadeva*, and more densely powdered with fulvous scales than in either. *Anterior wing* with the basal area of a richer and darker shade of brown than the rest of the organ; with four distinct longitudinal lines of fulvous scales in the cell, at the extremity of which is a minute but distinct cream-coloured speck; with the outer portion beyond

\* Moore, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 840, pl. li, fig. 1.